

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-15 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the restriction requirement in view of the remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

The Examiner has set forth a restriction requirement with regard to claims 1-15. The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

GROUP	CLAIMS	CLASSIFICATION
I	1-5	Class 198, Subclass 346.3
II	6 and 12	Class 427, Subclass 435
III	7-11	Class 118, Subclass 66
VI	13 and 14	Class 118, Subclass 412
V	15	Class 427, Subclass 402

Applicants have elected claims 1-5 for initial examination. However, it is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement is improper in view of the fact that no serious burden is presented to the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application.

As set forth in Section 803 of the MPEP, the Examiner must examine an application on the merits if the examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden. Two criteria are identified for a proper requirement for restriction:

1. The inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and

2. There must be a serious burden on the Examiner if the restriction is not required.

Applicants respectfully submit that a serious burden has not been placed on the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application. A review of the subject matter set forth in claims 1-5 would include a review of class 198 subclass 346.3 and class 427, subclasses 435 and 402 and class 118, subclasses 66 and 412. Thus, a different field of search really does not exist with regard to the claims of the present application.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement, claims 1-5 have been initially elected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the restriction requirement and act on all of the claims in the present application. If the Examiner does persist in the restriction requirement, the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims at a later date, if desired, is reserved.

In addition, as the Examiner will note, claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 7 and claim 15 has been amended to depend from claim 12. By amending the claims, Applicants have reduced the groups set forth in the Examiner's Restriction Requirement. If Applicants are forced to file divisional applications, the present application would include three groups, namely, Group I consisting of claims 1-5; Group II consisting of claims 6, 12 and 15 and Group III consisting of claims 7-11, 13 and 14.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

The Examiner has acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority. No additional action is required from the Applicants at this time.

DRAWINGS

The Official Draftsperson has not approved the Formal Drawings submitted by the Applicants. It is respectfully submitted that the drawings comply with the requirements of the USPTO. If the Official Draftsperson has any objections to the Formal Drawings he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned as soon as possible so that appropriate action may be taken. No further action is believed to be necessary at this time unless the undersigned receives a notice from the Official Draftsperson.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

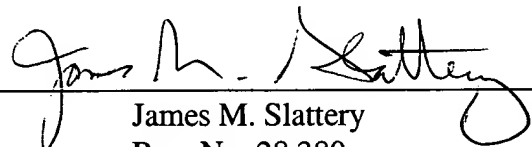
The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 1, 2001. The Examiner should initial and return the PTO-1449 attached to the Information Disclosure Statement.

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

James M. Slattery
Reg. No. 28,380
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

JMS/mmi

Attachment: Version to Show Changes Made



VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows:

12. (Amended) A conveyance method for dipping treatment of different kind of workpieces in a mixed condition comprising the steps of:

supporting different kind of workpieces above the conveyor;

moving the workpieces on the conveyor to a treatment bath;

stopping a workpiece above a treatment bath; and

rotating horizontally the workpiece on the conveyor selectively either to the right or left side in the direction of travel of [the] a carrier to treat each workpiece in accordance with the treating condition.

13. (Amended) A conveyance apparatus [for multi-color painting, wherein the apparatus is provided with] according to claim 7, and further including painting sections for applying different colors at both the left and right sides of a single conveyor, and a workpiece which is guided and moved by said conveyor is allowed to rotate horizontally either to the right or left side and is painted with a required color in any one of said painting sections.

15. (Amended) A conveyance method [for multicolor painting of a workpiece comprising the] according to claim 12, including the following steps of:

[supporting a workpiece above the conveyor;]

moving the workpiece to painting sections;

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stopping the carrier above painting sections for applying different colors at both the left and right sides of a single conveyor[:]; and

rotating the conveyor either to the right or the left side to paint the workpiece with a required color in any one of the painting sections.